

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) An intervertebral implant, specifically an artificial intervertebral disk, for implantation between adjacent vertebral bodies, each of said vertebral bodies having an endplate, the implant comprising a central axis and

A) an upper plate-shaped section, suitable for ~~contacting said endplate of said~~ laying onto the ~~base plate of a~~ vertebral body lying above, wherein the upper plate-shaped section is provided with one ventral side surface area, one dorsal side surface area, two lateral side surfaces areas, an upper ~~apposition~~ surface and a lower surface;

B) ~~and a~~ lower plate-shaped section suitable for ~~contacting said endplate of said~~ laying onto the ~~cover plate of a~~ vertebral body lying below, wherein the lower plate-shaped ~~upper~~ section is provided with one ventral side surface area, one dorsal side surface area, two lateral side surfaces areas, an upper ~~apposition~~ surface and a lower surface, ~~wherein~~

C) a central plate-shaped section arranged between the upper plate-shaped section and the lower plate-shaped section, ~~a central plate-shaped section is arranged~~, wherein the central plate-shaped section is provided with a ventral side surface, a dorsal side surface, two lateral side surfaces, a lower surface facing the lower plate-shaped section and an upper surface facing the upper plate-shaped section;

D) ~~between the upper section and the central section~~, a first circular-cylindrical rod located between the upper plate-shaped section and the central plate-shaped section, the first circular-cylindrical

~~rod with a longitudinal axis and being~~ is arranged in an anterior ~~antero-~~posterior orientation and intersects the central axis; and

E) ~~between the lower section and the central section;~~ a second circular-cylindrical rod located between the lower plate-shaped section and the central plate-shaped section, the second circular-cylindrical rod ~~with a longitudinal axis and being~~ is arranged in a ~~an~~ medio-lateral orientation and ~~parallel with the central axis.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the lower surface of the upper plate-shaped ~~first~~ section and the upper surface of the central plate-shaped section form a first ~~are formed as~~ sliding surfaces for the first, circular-cylindrical rod ~~that come in contact with them.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 2, wherein the first two sliding surfaces for the first circular-cylindrical rod has ~~have~~ a concave and circular-cylindrical arrangement.

4. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 2 ~~4~~, wherein the lower surface of the central plate-shaped section and the upper surface of the lower plate-shaped section form a second ~~are formed as~~ sliding surfaces for the second, circular-cylindrical rod ~~that come in contact with them.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 4, wherein the second ~~two~~ sliding surfaces for the second, circular-cylindrical rod has ~~have~~ a concave and circular-cylindrical arrangement.

6. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 4 ~~2~~, wherein at least one of the first and second or more of the sliding surfaces is provided at least partially with an edge formed on a peripheral perimeter of at least one of the upper, lower or central plates for restricting the movement of at least one of the first and second, circular-cylindrical rods.

7. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 4 ~~2~~, further comprising at least one stop wherein a number of limits/stops are provided on one or more of the sliding surfaces for restricting the movement ~~the rotation~~ of the cylindrical rods ~~around the central axis.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 4 ~~2~~, further comprising wherein a pair of grooves formed in at least one of the first and second sliding surfaces, the pair of grooves being sized and configured to receive one of the rods ~~is provided as a bearing for one of the first and/or second rod on one or both of the sliding surface pairs formed by the four sliding surfaces.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 8, wherein the pair of grooves is congruent to the circular-cylindrical rod [s] carried therein.

10. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 8, wherein the at least one pair of grooves is designed incongruent to the circular-cylindrical rods it has to bear and wherein the

at least one pair of grooves is preferably provided with a width that allows a limited rotation of the rod carried therein around the central axis in the grooves.

11. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 8, wherein at least one ~~section~~ of the grooves is provided with a ~~limit/stop attached on the periphery~~ to prevent axial shifting of the rod carried therein.

12. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 8, wherein the one pair of grooves for the first rod runs from the ventral to the dorsal side surfaces of the corresponding plate-shaped sections and the second pair of grooves for the second rod runs between the lateral side surfaces of the corresponding plate-shaped sections.

13. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 7, wherein the at least one limits/stops is ~~are~~ arranged so that the longitudinal axis of the first rod intersects the ventral and dorsal side surfaces of the corresponding plate-shaped sections and that the longitudinal axis of the second rod intersects the lateral side surfaces of the corresponding plate-shaped sections.

14. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein~~ elastically malleable means for holding ~~hold~~ the upper and lower plate-shaped sections together with the ~~intermediate-lying~~ central plate-shaped section and the two rods.

15. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 14, wherein the elastically malleable means are springs or elastomer connection elements.

16. (Currently Amended): The intervertebral implant according to claim 4 2, wherein the first and second ~~four~~ sliding surfaces and the first and second ~~two~~ rods are made of metal.

17. (Currently Amended): The intervertebral implant according to claim 4 2, wherein the first and second ~~four~~ sliding surfaces are made of metal and the first and second ~~two~~ rods are made of ceramic.

18 (Currently Amended): The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein~~ insertion means for ~~are provided that are suitable to create temporary restricting blocking of~~ the mobility of the three plate-shaped sections relative to each other.

19 (Currently Amended): The intervertebral implant according to claim 18, wherein the insertion means is connected to on the two ~~ventral side surfaces of the upper and lower plate shaped sections can be attached to the three plate shaped sections.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 18, wherein the insertion means comprise an insert with a lower end and an upper end, the upper and lower plate shaped sections each including ~~and a depression in the surfaces on each of the two external plate shaped sections, which are open on the ventral side surfaces of the upper and lower two external plate-shaped sections, the depressions being sized and configured to receive the upper and lower ends of the insert and that the insert can be inserted with its ends into each of the two depressions.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 20, wherein the depressions are dovetail guides and the ends of ~~on~~ the insert are arranged complementary to these dovetail guides.

22. (Currently Amended) The intervertebral implant according to claim 21, wherein the dovetail guides are tapered from the ventral side surfaces of ~~the upper and lower two external~~ the upper and lower plate-shaped sections towards the dorsal side surfaces of the ~~upper and lower two external~~ upper and lower plate-shaped sections.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)